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and by them taken to Camden Bay, as he had found no evidence of the recent existence of muskoxen in northeastern Alaska. This, however, does not in any way controvert the testimony afforded by skulls found on the surface of the tundra near the coast of this portion of Alaska, nor the facts now furnished by Mr. Stefánsson in confirmation of the previous evidence of the existence of living muskoxen there as recently as fifty to sixty years ago.

J. A. ALLEN

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

### THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AT the New Haven meeting of the academy held in the new Sloane Physics Laboratory of Yale University, from November 12 to 14, the following papers were read:

Charles D. Walcott: "Cambrian Formations of Mount Robson District, British Columbia." Illustrated.

William M. Davis: "Physiographic Evidence in Favor of the Subsidence Theory of Coral Reefs."

William B. Scott: "Restorations of Tertiary Mammals."

Henry F. Osborn: "Geologic Correlation of Upper Paleolithic Faunas of Europe and America."

John M. Clarke: (1) "The Devonian Faunas of Western Argentina." (2) "Probable Devonian Glacial Boulder Beds in Argentina."

Charles Schuchert: "Climates of Geologic Time." Illustrated.

William M. Davis: "The Transcontinental Excursion of the American Geographical Society."

Arnold Hague: "Biographical Memoir of Samuel Franklin Emmons."

Jacques Loeb: "On the Fertilization of the Egg of Invertebrates with Blood."

Edwin G. Conklin: "Cell Division and Differentiation." Illustrated.

Charles B. Davenport: "Heredity of Skin Color in Negro-white Crosses."

Lafayette B. Mendel (introduced by Russell H. Chittenden): "Some Biochemical Features of Growth." Illustrated.

Thomas B. Osborne: "The Nutritive Value of the Proteins of Maize."

Ross G. Harrison (introduced by Russell H. Chittenden): "Experiments on Regeneration and Transplantation of Limbs in the Amphibia." Illustrated.

S. J. Meltzer: "Theory and Fact as Illustrated

by an Instructive Experiment on the Splanchnic Nerve."

Franz Boas: "New Data on the Influence of Heredity and Environment upon the Bodily Form of Man."

Ernest W. Brown (introduced by Edward S. Dana): "The Problem of the Asteroids."

Robert W. Wood: (1) "Some Results obtained with the most Powerful Spectrograph in the World." Illustrated. (2) "On the Possibility of Photographing Molecules." (3) "On a New Method of Finding Regularities in Band Spectra."

Charles C. Adams (introduced by William H. Dall): "The Variations and Ecological Distribution of the Snails of the Genus *Io*."

### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

#### THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A SPECIAL meeting of the Anthropological Society was held at 4:30 P.M., October 29, 1912, in Room 43 of the New Museum Building, the president, Mr. Stetson, in the chair.

Dr. I. M. Casanowicz read a very careful, thorough and interesting paper on the Mithra cult, explaining it as a religion of redemption, which was the most important competitor of Christianity during several centuries. He explained that it was Aryan in origin, antedating the separation of the Aryan people of India from the Iranians, that it was transferred westward by stages, accumulating elements in the Mesopotamian Valley and the Mediterranean Basin, but preserving an Iranian nucleus, that it entered Rome as the religion of the poor and lowly, but was taken up by society when found helpful to imperial policy and made its first convert of an emperor in Commodus. Mithra was essentially the god of light, hence of truth and benevolence; and from the antithesis of light and darkness grew the conception of his war against the powers of evil. Zoroaster built his system on this dualism and conflict, though relegating Mithra to a lower place. Later he came to be regarded as occupying a middle place (on earth) between the powers of Heaven and the evil powers of the underworld, serving also as a mediator between man and the unapproachable supreme deity. The cult of Mithra, he said, had influenced Christianity, especially in the conceptions of the powers of evil, the resurrection of the body, the efficacy of sacraments and the procedures of the church.

W. H. BABCOCK,  
Secretary